Ultimate LFC auction | Legends v Bayern | Anfield groundstaff | Trent Alexander-Arnold | James Milner

LIVERPOOL FC





Official Liverpool FC Monthly Magazine
liverpoolfc.com

MO SALAH

"SINCE I'VE BEEN HERE THE MANAGER HAS CHANGED SOMETHING IN ME"

+

BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL! THE KIT THAT BRINGS OUT LFC'S BEST

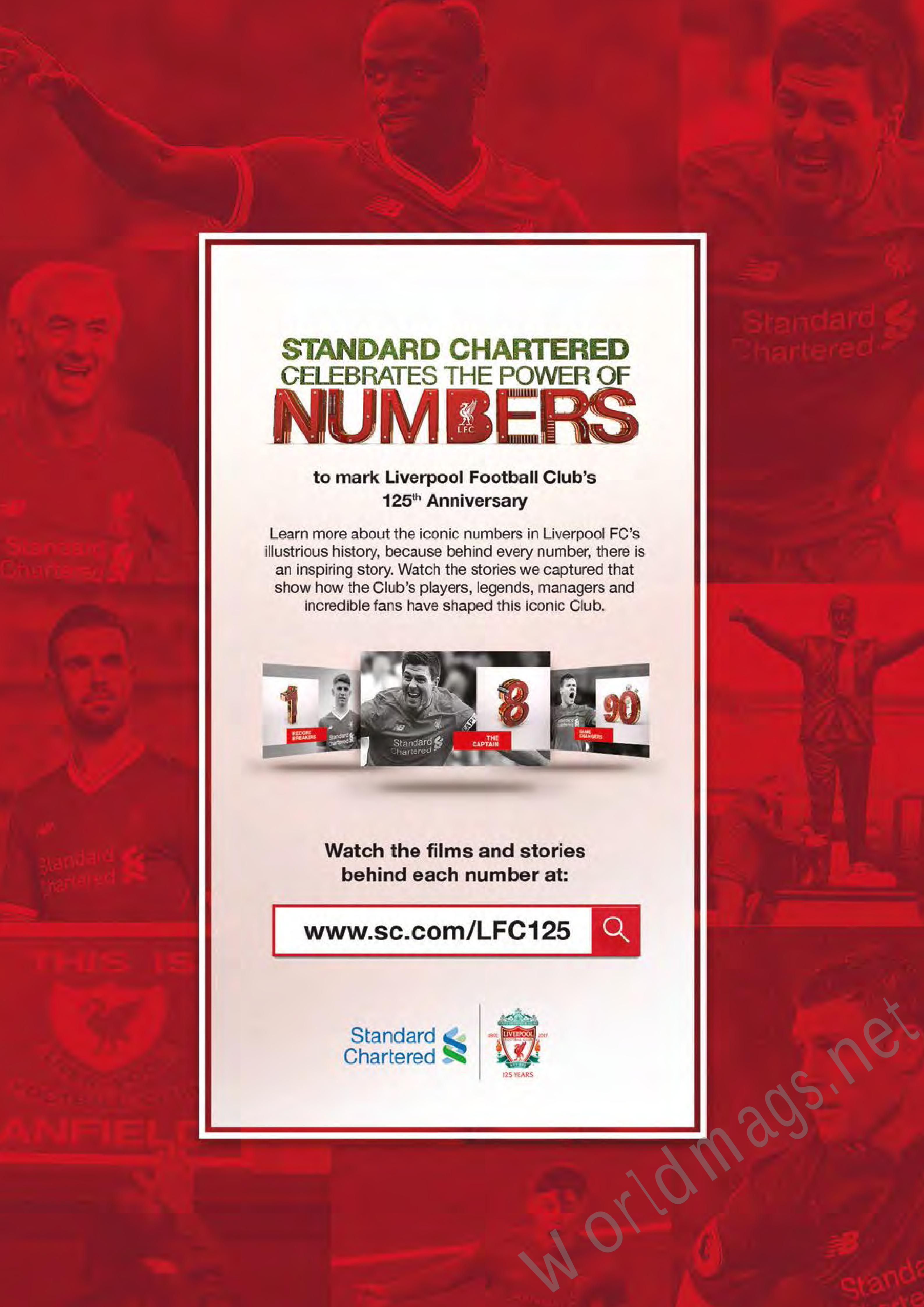
THE JOY OF

KLOPP

WHY THE BOSS IS TOP OF THE GOALSCORING CHARTS






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ISSUE 68 APRIL 2018

Now that's what we call a fab scarf and matching hat! We hope all of our fans enjoy this latest issue packed with action, insight and Anfield entertainment



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BIG PIC





NO PLACE LIKE HOME

Meteorologically speaking late February and early March weren't the most pleasant of months for football spectators in this country. But there was enough entertainment at Anfield to warm the faithful, with Premier League wins over West Ham United then Newcastle United consolidating Liverpool's top-four spot and progress to the quarter-finals of the Champions League sealed with a 5-0 aggregate win over FC Porto.

STEPPING TO IT

As Reds midfielder James Milner points out elsewhere in this issue, there was a marked contrast between conditions on the first-team squad's training trip to Marbella and those back at Melwood as winter reluctantly eased its icy grip – and their fitness and form owes much to the unsung heroes of Jürgen Klopp's backroom staff. Here the players are put through their paces under leaden skies in preparation for another big match.







An evening with Jürgen Klopp

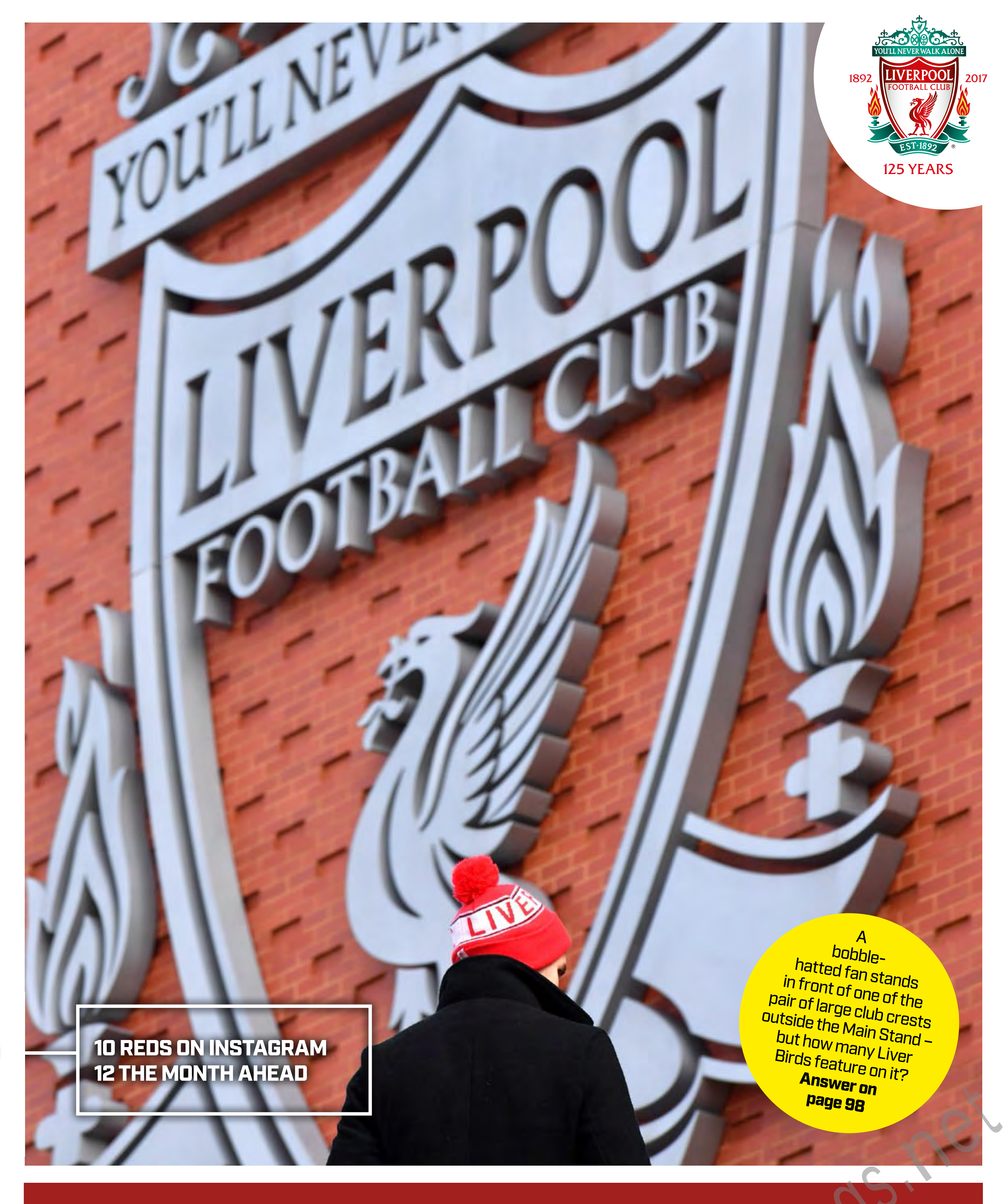
Monday 26th March, Main Stand - Anfield

Listen to the Reds boss as he offers an insight into life at Anfield and shares stories of his career in football management.

Tickets are £170 and include:

- Evening with Jürgen Klopp hosted by Peter McDowall
- Drinks reception
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- Q&A with the LFC Manager
- Opportunity to win signed LFC memorabilia
- Photo opportunities with LFC silverware

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A bobble-hatted fan stands in front of one of the pair of large club crests outside the Main Stand – but how many Liver Birds feature on it? **Answer on page 98**

Highlights from LFC social-media posts plus the club's annual results

LIVERPOOL

ROAD AHEAD



Among the talking-points for fans when Liverpool FC filed its annual accounts for the financial year to end-of-May 2017, which saw sustained growth and further investment across the club, was the latest news about the stadium's development.

Andy Hughes, LFC's chief operating officer, revealed: "Our recent capital projects which include the Main Stand, the new retail store, the combined training ground and the new pitch at Anfield will be close to £200m, which further demonstrates the commitment from this ownership.

"We continue to work up design, capacity and economic viability options for Anfield Road working with an architect to help with that process. This follows the same comprehensive process we followed with the Main Stand expansion."

But he added: "Performance on the pitch and the reinvestment in our squad is always a priority and following the club's record signing in January [Virgil van Dijk] we will look to invest again in the summer.

"Progress on and off the pitch is critical to the growth of this football club – we all want success and everything we're doing is geared toward fulfilling our football ambitions.

"We must also continue to manage our finances and cash-flow effectively that we have worked so very hard to secure since FSG took charge of the club."

Improving how Liverpool connects digitally with its supporters continues to be a priority and the club reported a five-million increase in new followers taking the total to over 55m across LFC's social media platforms.

Liverpool FC also increased its commitment to the local community by introducing a new programme dedicated to supporting people who live in and around Anfield.

Red Neighbours was launched in

Liverpool Football Club puts the emphasis on stadium, community and fanbase



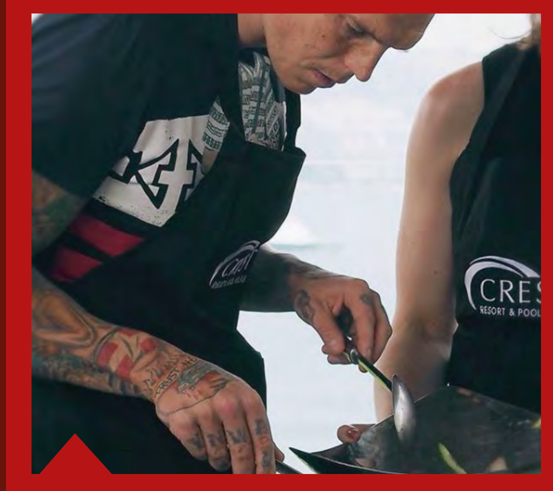
January 2017 and provides a range of programmes including unique free match-tickets for over 1,100 local schoolchildren, fitness programmes for elderly residents, and support to help local families tackle food poverty.

Summary:

- Overall revenue increased by £62m to £364m.
- Reported profit after tax £39m.
- Further net cash investment of £91m on players and infrastructure.
- Six new player signings.
- Work starts on new £50m training ground in the summer.
- 12 new commercial partnerships.

Reds ON INSTAGRAM

The best LFC-related posts



@danielagger22 It's never too late 😂 cooking class at The @crestresortandpoolvillas 😎 Thank you for a good experience 🙏



@hotelia Well...Been at auction on #Anfield today. Bought a door



@lorisk21
Great team win and a well deserved clean sheet. What more can you ask for? 💥 #LK1 #YNWA



@dejanlovren06
chooselove to support @helprefugeesuk



@curtisjones10 Proud to announce: I have signed my first professional contract with @liverpoolfc, a child-hood dream has came true 🙌❤️! #LFC 🔴



@gwijnaldum ❤️❤️❤️



@trentarnold98
Good to get all three points. and to get a clean sheet 💪 Atmosphere amazing again! 👍 Roll on Tuesday 🔴 #YNWA #66

WHAT'S



ON: MAR /APR



HOME AND AWAY

The 231st Merseyside derby takes place at Goodison Park on Sunday 8 April with the Reds travelling the short distance across the park to face Sam Allardyce's Toffees.

Back in December the Reds were held to a 1-1 draw at Anfield, Mohamed Salah's sensational goal cancelled out by Wayne Rooney's late penalty. Less than a month later Liverpool did gain bragging rights when the sides reconvened at Anfield for an FA Cup third-round tie with Virgil van Dijk scoring on his debut to secure a 2-1 win. And for a taste of vintage Goodison derby drama turn to page 60 of this issue.

Meanwhile Liverpool's only home Premier League game in a six-week spell will see them host Watford on Saturday 17 March with precious points at stake. If it's anything like the match when the sides met on the opening day of the season, fans are in for a treat: the teams played out a 3-3 draw that afternoon with Salah scoring his first LFC goal.

There's also the next round of the Champions League to look forward to, following Liverpool's victory over FC Porto in the round of 16. The draw takes place in Nyon on Friday 16 March with the quarter-final ties to take place on 3/4 April and 10/11 April. It will be an open draw in which no teams are seeded and clubs from the same national association can be drawn against each other. Hold on to your hats, caps and scarves.

WHAT'S ON:





CUP FEVER

The Academy and Ladies teams have big cup quarter-finals coming up in March. On Wed 14, the U19s make the short trip to Manchester to take on City in the last eight of the UEFA Youth League at the Academy Stadium (3pm).

Four days later, the Ladies host Chelsea at the same stage of the SSE FA Women's Cup, at Prescot Cables' Valerie Park (2pm). Admission is £5 adults and £2.50 children (under 16s), OAPs and students with a valid student ID.

Anniversaries and birthdays

It's 13 years since Liverpool defeated Juventus 2-1 in the Champions League at Anfield.

Rafa Benitez's side built a small advantage in the first leg of their quarter-final against the Italian giants at Anfield. The Reds raced into a two-goal lead inside 25 minutes. First Steven Gerrard swung over a corner from the right and, after it was flicked on at the near post, Sami Hyypia drifted clear of his marker and volleyed home from close-range.

Fifteen minutes later Anfield was rocking when Anthony Le Tallec's attempted pass for Milan Baros dropped invitingly for Luis Garcia who hit a brilliant first-time dipping half-volley beyond Juve keeper Gianluigi Buffon and into the net at the Anfield Road end.

Juve fought back and centre-back Fabio Cannavaro gave them hope for the second leg with a header past keeper Scott Carson. But the foundations had been laid for defensive masterclass in the Stadio delle Alpi eight days later which would see the Reds into the semi-finals and a clash with Chelsea.



Jerzy Dudek **45** on 23 March
Nathaniel Clyne **27** on 5 April
Andy Robertson **24** on 11 March
Tommy Smith **73** on 5 April
Kolo Toure **37** on 19 March
Joe Allen on **28** on 14 March
Danny Murphy **41** on 18 March
Gordon Milne **81** on 29 March
Ian Callaghan **76** on 10 April
Fernando Torres **34** on 20 March
John Toshack **69** on 22 March
Robbie Fowler **43** on 9 April
Fabio Borini **27** on 29 March
Sadio Mane **26** on 10 April



92 years since Gordon Hodgson's first LFC goal on 10 March 1926.
9 years since LFC beat Real Madrid then Man United on 10/14 March 2009.
21 years since the second 4-3 win over Newcastle United on 10 March 1997.
6 years since Steven Gerrard's derby hat-trick at Anfield on 13 March 2012.
41 years since the legendary 3-1 win against St-Etienne on 16 March 1977.
37 years since goalie Bruce Grobbelaar joined the Reds on 17 March 1981.
22 years since the first 4-3 win over Newcastle United on 3 April 1996.

FIXTURES 2017/18

AUGUST

Sat 12	Watford (A)	3-3
Tue 15	Hoffenheim (A) UCL	2-1
Sat 19	**Crystal Palace** (H)	1-0
Wed 23	**Hoffenheim** (H) UCL	4-2
Sun 27	**Arsenal** (H)	4-0

SEPTEMBER

Sat 9	Manchester City (A)	0-5
Wed 13	**Sevilla** (H) UCL	2-2
Sat 16	**Burnley** (H)	1-1
Tue 19	Leicester City (A) CC3	0-2
Sat 23	Leicester City (A)	3-2
Tue 26	Spartak Moscow (A) UCL	1-1

OCTOBER

Sun 1	Newcastle United (A)	1-1
Sat 14	**Manchester United** (H)	0-0
Tue 17	Maribor (A) UCL	7-0
Sun 22	Tottenham Hotspur (A)	1-4
Sat 28	**Huddersfield Town** (H)	3-0

NOVEMBER

Wed 1	**Maribor** (H) UCL	3-0
Sat 4	West Ham United (A)	4-1
Sat 18	**Southampton** (H)	3-0
Tue 21	Sevilla (A) UCL	3-3
Sat 25	**Chelsea** (H)	1-1
Wed 29	Stoke City (A)	3-0

DECEMBER

Sat 2	Brighton (A)	5-1
Wed 6	**Spartak Moscow** (H) UCL	7-0
Sun 10	**Everton** (H)	1-1
Wed 13	**West Brom** (H)	0-0
Sun 17	AFC Bournemouth (A)	4-0
Fri 22	Arsenal (A)	2-2
Tue 26	**Swansea City** (H)	5-0
Sat 30	**Leicester City** (H)	2-1

JANUARY

Mon 1	Burnley (A)	1-0
Fri 5	**Everton** (H, FAC 3)	2-1
Sun 14	**Manchester City** (H)	4-3
Mon 22	Swansea City (A)	0-1
Sa 27/Su 28	**West Brom** (H, FAC 4)	2-3
Tue 30	Huddersfield Town (A)	3-0

FEBRUARY

Sun 4	**Tottenham** (H)	2-2
Sun 11	Southampton (A)	2-0
Wed 14	Porto (A) UCL	5-0
Sat 24	**West Ham United** (H)	4-1

MARCH

Sat 3	**Newcastle United** (H)	2-0
Tue 6	**FC Porto** (H) UCL	0-0
Sat 10	Manchester United (A)	
Sat 17	**Watford** (H)	
Sat 31	Crystal Palace (A)	

APRIL

Tu 3/We 4	UCL quarter-final 1st leg	
Sun 8	Everton (A)	
Tu 10/We 11	UCL quarter-final 2nd leg	
Sat 14	**AFC Bournemouth** (H)	
Sun 22	West Brom (A)	
Tu 24/We 25	UCL semi-final 1st leg	
Sat 28	**Stoke City** (H)	

MAY

Tu 1/We 2	UCL semi-final 2nd leg	
Sat 5	Chelsea (A)	
Sun 13	**Brighton** (H)	
Sat 26	UCL final (Kiev)	

*UCL = UEFA Champions League


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Interviews with Mo, Milly and Trent plus goals, goals and more goals!

FOOTBALL

VIRGIL READY TO LEAD

Reds defender Virgil van Dijk has settled fully into life with Liverpool FC and believes his leadership qualities will soon come to the fore.

VVD says organising his team-mates has become easier as he's adapted to the physical demands placed upon him by manager Jürgen Klopp's approach. "The most important thing is to get to know everyone and get to know how we like to play, and everything around it," he says, "and on the pitch, do it and show it.

"The way we plays costs a lot of energy, you need to be 100 per cent fit physically. In the first two-and-a-half weeks that's what needed to be much better than it was. In the last few weeks it has gone very well – I feel good. It's getting better every day.

"It is just about games. I understand a lot more than I did at the beginning."

The boss certainly agrees. "He's just a good lad, to be honest – that's the most important thing," Klopp has told the club's official website. "We bought him not because he is a good lad but because he is a good footballer. But being a good lad helps a lot to settle in the team immediately – and that's what he did.

"That he is a good footballer, there was no doubt. Our other four centre-halves are good footballers as well. It only helps. When you have a lot of possession, you need this kind of passing skills in defenders.

"His body language is brilliant. He looks like a leader, like a warrior, already like a Liverpool player – that's good news."



Van Dijk hopes he can add to that trophy roll-call


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COULD DO BET

Mo Salah's words – not ours – as he explains in this fascinating insight into his Anfield dreams


TER
WU
WESTERN UNION

When you look through Mohamed Salah's extensive and ever-expanding catalogue of goals for the 2017/18 season, some of them beggar belief.

His 30th of an incredible debut campaign with the Reds certainly comes into that category. It arrived in the 5-0 win at Porto with Frank Lampard, covering the game as a pundit for BT Sport, describing it as "the kind of goal you'd score in the playground."

The improvised effort which helped contribute to Porto's heaviest-ever home defeat, saw the Egyptian react to James Milner's strike off the post by flicking up the rebound, wrong-footing keeper Jose Sa with another touch, then a cushion-header, before stroking it home with his left. A playground special or perhaps the kind of goal you would score while "being Liverpool" on a computer game.

"When I was a kid I used to play with Liverpool on the PlayStation so it was my dream to play for this club," he recalls. "Liverpool is a huge club. In the Middle East it is seen as a big club and everyone there loves the club. When I had the chance to come back to the Premier League with Liverpool last summer, I was very happy. The most important thing is that I am here with this club now.

"I was playing [on the PlayStation] as a Liverpool team with Steven Gerrard, Djibril Cisse, Sami Hyypia, Jamie Carragher and Luis Garcia. In fact I could name the whole team!



There were some great players."

Salah believes his sensational real-life scoring return is an expression of the freedom he's been given by Jürgen Klopp and also his joy at being able to return to the Premier League. "After leaving Chelsea [permanently in 2016] I always wanted to come back to the Premier League, one hundred per cent. When I was at Fiorentina and Roma, I told friends that I would like to come back to England one day because I think the Premier League is perfect for my style of football. I like the Premier League a lot so I wanted to return.

"At Chelsea I didn't really play so I didn't have my chance, but now I am playing here at Liverpool and I am really enjoying my football. From the first day I arrived here I said: 'I am in Liverpool, I am very happy here and I want to show you more of my football'."

He's certainly done that. Mo has previously pointed out that he's





FROM THE DAY I ARRIVED IN LIVERPOOL I WAS HAPPY AND NOW I AM ENJOYING MY FOOTBALL


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125 YEARS
11



now playing closer to goal than ever before, but his scoring return is still phenomenal given that he doesn't play as an out-and-out striker.

"We change the system in almost every game, so sometimes I play as the second striker, sometimes I play on the right, sometimes I play on the left. We often change things during a game, so we may play 4-4-1-1 or 4-4-2 where I will play as a second striker or as a main striker. It depends on the game and it depends on what the manager wants and I am happy about that.

"Since I came here the manager has changed something in me. He has helped me to improve myself and to do what I am doing now. I am closer to the goal and I have freedom to do whatever I want, but we also have ten other players so I have to do my work: attack, defend, everything.

"I cannot forget the other players. The quality of these players is fantastic. I am trying to score goals to help the team and the players I have around me make everything easier in that respect. I have to give them so much credit."

THE MANAGER HAS HELPED ME TO IMPROVE AND THE OTHER PLAYERS HERE ARE FANTASTIC

Eighteen of Salah's 32 goals to the start of March had come at Anfield. While many players talk about the noise and colour of the Kop, the no11's first taste of the Anfield experience strengthened his desire to wear the Liver Bird on his chest one day.

Sunday 27 April 2014 is not a day Liverpool supporters will want to recall and yet it seems that some good may have come out of an afternoon of huge disappointment.

At a sun-drenched Anfield the Reds played Chelsea in the first of their three remaining Premier League games that season. Brendan Rodgers' team enjoyed a five-point lead over the Blues at the top of the table and were nine clear of Manchester City, although City had two games-in-hand. Nonetheless, victory would have taken Liverpool to within touching distance of a first Premier League title while a draw would have also kept those ambitions on course.

Salah, recruited by Chelsea three months earlier, was making a rare start for the Blues, one of only six he

would make in the Premier League in just over a year at Stamford Bridge.

"The atmosphere here is unbelievable," he says. "With other teams I had played at, people always talked about the atmosphere at Anfield. When I played here for the first time against Liverpool almost four years ago, I said: 'One day, I have to play here'. The atmosphere is incredible and the supporters are fantastic, that's what I can say.

"From the first day that I came here, I felt that support and felt that they liked me. In every home game I feel that and I see it in the stadium, even in the warm-up. I understand that I have to give more to make them happy. We are fighting for the fans. We are fighting for ourselves.

"We are fighting to win every game in that way."

Mo's spell at Chelsea was cut short when he was loaned to Serie A sides Fiorentina and Roma before making his move to the Italian capital on a permanent basis in 2016.

He is candid about his time at Stamford Bridge but it is clear that he always had the feeling that he had unfinished business as far as the Premier League was concerned.

PEOPLE ALWAYS TALKED ABOUT THE ANFIELD ATMOSPHERE AND I KNEW I HAD TO PLAY HERE

"I have said before that I didn't get my chance to play at Chelsea but now I have the opportunity at Liverpool and I am trying to show everyone my football. But I learnt a lot when I was at Chelsea also.

"It was not an easy time for me, but I did learn with the experience.

"Now I am at Liverpool, I am very happy. I come, I play, I enjoy! I came here to help the club win titles. I know everyone here works incredibly hard to try to win something for the club, for the fans, for ourselves. If there is one thing I want to say to the fans it is that we work at 100 per cent every day to improve ourselves and to achieve something for the club.

"It's a dream for me to win the Premier League here with Liverpool after such a long time. It's my dream to win the Premier League and I want to win it with this club."

That breathtaking goal against Porto in the Estadio do Dragao also saw the Egyptian became only the 13th different Reds player to score 30 goals in a season. Many players would be happy with such a return, particularly during a first campaign with a new club. Yet what helps set Salah apart is his ambition and hunger for more.

"I am happy with what I have done until now but it could be better. I need to improve, I need to give more, I need to achieve more for the club, for myself and for everyone and that is what I am trying to do in every game. Can I get better? One hundred per cent. Why not?

"In many things I think I am a different player to the one I was at Fiorentina and Roma. I always strive to improve myself daily, whether physically or in some other way. I always try to improve everything within me, hence there is a vast difference in me between now and a year to two or three years ago.



ON THE GOLDEN BOOT

"Harry Kane and Sergio Aguero have been winning this award for the last two or three years, so I am competing with two strikers which is not an easy thing," admits Mo. "They are closer to the goal than me as they are number nines. But I play for a specific reason and that is to help the club in a way that will improve its ranking in the Premier League rather than individual awards. Helping the team is always my main aim."

"To me, I am better mentally and physically than I was even five weeks ago. There is always pressure, but this is my way. I am always putting myself under pressure to improve myself every day."

While that 2005 Champions League-winning team under Rafael Benitez clearly had an impact on Salah as he was about to enter his teens, he also admired many other attacking talents during his childhood. They all inspired him to work so hard on his game. "When I was young I admired the Brazilian Ronaldo, [Francesco] Totti and [Zinedine] Zidane. I loved these players. They were different. The way they played was unbelievable and they helped you enjoy football more."

The same could be said of Salah's riveting repertoire of skills. Liverpudlians love a goalscoring hero and the bond between Kopites and their shooting star has been affirmed as this season has unfolded. As well as honouring with him various songs – "Three, I think!" – his popularity saw him mobbed by supporters while taking a ferry to New Brighton last month as part of an advertising campaign for Egyptian TV. He was also spotted filming in a Breck Road 'chippy' and The Park public house!

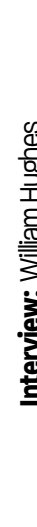
"It shows that the fans are interested in you and they want to give you everything also. They think about songs for you and they give that support. I feel love! I feel love about the club, so I am happy about that. The paparazzi were in New Brighton when I went there! It was the first time I had visited but it will not be the last time. It was very nice!"

As the Reds gear up for the final two months of the season, the 25-year-old remains optimistic about what they can achieve during the run-in. "In football anything can happen – you never know how things will turn out. But what I do know is that if you don't have dreams and if you don't make sacrifices and work hard to achieve something, you will never get it. We will continue to give our absolute best to do something special in the Champions League and to improve our position in the Premier League.

"I can't think about the end of the season just yet because there are still a lot of games to go. I have to think about the next game and then the next one. We must finish in the top four – that is not optional but we have to fight for it.

"We have fantastic players, a fantastic manager and fantastic fans, so everyone deserves a top-four finish but there are many strong teams in the Premier League. We are all working towards being in a good position, better than the one we have now."

The man the fans have dubbed the Egyptian King will do everything to achieve that. "My life is nearly all football. I eat, drink and sleep football – everything I think about is football."



Post-war LFC goal machines

47 Ian Rush 1983/84
42 Roger Hunt 1961/62
40 Ian Rush 1986/87
37 Roger Hunt 1964/65
36 Robbie Fowler 1995/96
33 Fernando Torres 2007/08; **Ian Rush** 1985/86; **Roger Hunt** 1963/64; **John Evans** 1954/55
32 Mohamed Salah* 2017/18; **Roger Hunt** 1965/66; **Billy Liddell** 1955/56
31 Luis Suarez 2013/14; **Robbie Fowler** 1996/97; **Robbie Fowler** 1994/95; **John Aldridge** 1988/89; **Ian Rush** 1982/83; **Kenny Dalglish** 1977/78; **Billy Liddell** 1954/55
30 Luis Suarez 2012/13; **Ian Rush** 1981/82; **Roger Hunt** 1967/68

*Up to and including 3 March 2018.



This manager's Mighty Reds are more exciting to watch than any in the post-war era – and here are the goals-per-manager stats to prove it

KLOPP ON TOP



JÜRGEN KLOPP 2015-PRESENT
284 goals in 140 games (av 2.02)
Shooting stars: Roberto Firmino 45; Philippe Coutinho 37; Mohamed Salah 32; Sadio Mane 27

BRENDAN RODGERS 2012-15
293 goals in 166 games (av 1.76)
Shooting stars: Luis Suarez 61; Daniel Sturridge 42

ROY HODGSON 2010-11
41 goals in 31 games (av 1.32)
Shooting stars: David Ngog 8; Steven Gerrard 8

RAFAEL BENITEZ 2004-10
585 goals in 350 games (av 1.67)
Shooting stars: Steven Gerrard 104; Fernando Torres 72

GERARD HOULLIER 1998-2004
516 goals in 307 games (av 1.68)
Shooting stars: Michael Owen 124; Emile Heskey 60

ROY EVANS 1994-98
375 goals in 226 games (av 1.65)
Shooting stars: Robbie Fowler 114; Stan Collymore 35

GRAEME SOUNESS 1991-94
248 goals in 157 games (av 1.57)
Shooting stars: Ian Rush 47; Steve McManaman 18

KENNY DALGLISH 1985-91; 2011-12
732 goals in 381 games (av 1.92)
Shooting stars: Ian Rush 130; John Aldridge 63

JOE FAGAN 1983-85
225 goals in 131 games (av 1.71)
Shooting stars: Ian Rush 73; John Wark 29

BOB PAISLEY 1974-83
955 goals in 535 games (av1.78)
Shooting stars: Kenny Dalglish 139; David Johnson 78

BILL SHANKLY 1956-74
1307 goals in 783 games (av 1.66)
Shooting stars: Roger Hunt 277; Ian St John 118

PHIL TAYLOR 1956-59
294 goals in 150 games (av 1.96)
Scoring stars: Billy Liddell 62; Jimmy Melia 44

DON WELSH 1951-56
387 goals in 232 games (av 1.66)
Scoring stars: Jackie Balmer 106; Albert Stubbins 72

GEORGE KAY 1936-51
545 goals in 354 games (av 1.53)
Scoring stars: Billy Liddell 102; John Evans 46



"The mentality of being relentless"

"The standard of training and the intensity of the application in training [demonstrates] we have a group that recognises we have to keep looking forward at all times and never backwards.

"After Southampton [where the Reds won 2-0 away in February] I spoke a little in the press-conference about this season feeling unique, in as much as almost every team has big issues to fight and scrap for between now and the final whistle on the final afternoon.

"When you have a competition as strong as the Premier League it means that every 90 minutes becomes an individual battle to be won. No one is going to hand you anything in this environment – everything has to be earned.

"Physically we are in great shape at the moment and the credit for that goes to the players and the brilliant staff here at Liverpool tasked with looking after them and guiding them. But the challenge, for everyone, is going to be about mentality as well.

"It's the mentality of being relentless in how you approach each day and each individual challenge; the mentality of never being satisfied or complacent in the sporting context but also never allowing set-backs to keep you on the ground.

"The nature and strength of the competitions we're competing in mean it's possible we will experience set-backs along the way between now and the season finishing. We have proved we are a group that responds positively when faced with difficulties, and what has defined us so far is that we respond together. Be it setbacks in matches, or setbacks in terms of a specific result, we can achieve something special if we remain together at all times.

"This is our mindset for the run-in: every challenge we face, we do so collectively and in doing so we remain stronger and more resilient."

Jürgen's matchday programme notes for LFC v West Ham United (Sat 24 Feb 2018).



"The importance of aggression"

"I spoke in a press-briefing after the West Ham win about wanting to see the players angry. I want to elaborate, as I think it is important.

"It isn't the case that I want the players to be burdened by the responsibility or to display body-language and emotion that suggests they are devoid of joy, happiness or satisfaction in their lives and work. It's about the mentality they display and the approach to their work and the matches.

"I have spoken before about the importance of aggression. This is very much the same thing. Aggression has a negative context, as does anger. But in professional sport and football in particular it can be the greatest of attributes and a massive positive. You can be aggressive in your running, aggressive in your passion, your encouragement, aggressive in your greed to win. I don't and have never meant aggressive by looking to hurt someone else.

"One of my most important values in football is that the only person you should ever be willing to hurt on a football pitch is yourself, never an opponent.

"So, as with aggression, I want my players to display the positive traits of being angry. It means don't be satisfied, don't be complacent, don't think the job is done.

"Stay focused, stay hungry, stay alert, stay aggressive. View each game as a battle to be won. View each opponent as being someone who is coming to take something away from you, that you desperately want...

"If you look at the very best sportspeople in history and in the present day, you see something in their eyes that makes you think that when they are competing they cannot ever be happy or satisfied. This is what I want from us now.

"Our players really are fantastic human beings, good people with big hearts, and that means they need to channel their sporting aggression and anger in the right way now to make sure we keep this focus. The reason I have total faith and belief we can and will do this is because I see how they view their opponents and approach these games."

Jürgen's matchday programme notes for LFC v Newcastle Utd (Sat 3 March 2018).

WORD FROM THE WISE

James Milner on team building and game management at the business-end of the season




WU



Enjoying the combative side of the Premier League

Spring has just about sprung but what was it like training when the 'Beast from the East' weather-front hit?
We get looked after well at Melwood and the pitches were all cleared of snow and ice when it was pretty bad. So it was business as usual really, we just got straight back into it.

Of course it was a lot different to the warm-weather training in Marbella a fortnight earlier. It was good to go out there and break up the routine in a different climate. We did a lot of core-work outdoors, which was nicer than doing it in the gym at Melwood when it's winter outside, and similarly with recovery sessions after training.

It was a good trip in that respect but it was also about being together as a group, which is so important for team-building. We did the 'roomies' thing with the gaffer doing it FA Cup draw-style! I was picked with Wardy [goalkeeper Danny Ward] and there was plenty of banter.

The team seemed to have coped well over the winter, though, and into this final stage of the season...
The manager has changed the team at times which has helped. We feel we've got the quality to do that now and not notice the difference [in terms of results and performances]. We're in good shape at this moment and it's down to the training and the players looking after themselves too. In football everyone is always carrying injuries which have to be managed, and you have to be 'on it' in training, doing different types of work and doing the right kind of work, or indeed less if you've been playing a lot.

People have commented on the team's game-management recently – is that something you feel out on the pitch?
We knew we could improve on the last year, year-and-a-half, in terms of managing games. We've had meetings about it as players. We've got a bit more maturity in recognising those moments when you need to take the sting out of a game, for example; sensing when to do it and how. It's something you always need to do in matches – you have to find a way to win all types of games, whatever the occasion or circumstances.

Is there always a risk with such an attack-minded team that goals might be conceded at the other end, and is it a price worth paying?
It shouldn't really be like that. If you've got eleven players on the pitch and four or five of them are trying to score goals, then there are still six or seven of them who should be switched on defensively and that's what we work on. Winning the game is the no1 aim, and we are blessed with quality players who can do that.

What's it been like having Mohamed Salah in the side this season?
He's a top player who can create goals out of nothing. That's credit to the players around him but it's important that we take some pressure off him and make sure the goals are shared out as much as possible. We play as a team both going forward and defending as well and he's a big part of it. He's a good character in the dressing-room, too – he's fitted in well and very quickly.

On a personal note you seem to have been relishing the winter-into-spring transition and the physical battle, the tackles and challenges, especially in the Premier League...


"Race ya!"













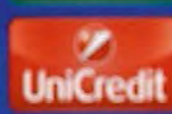










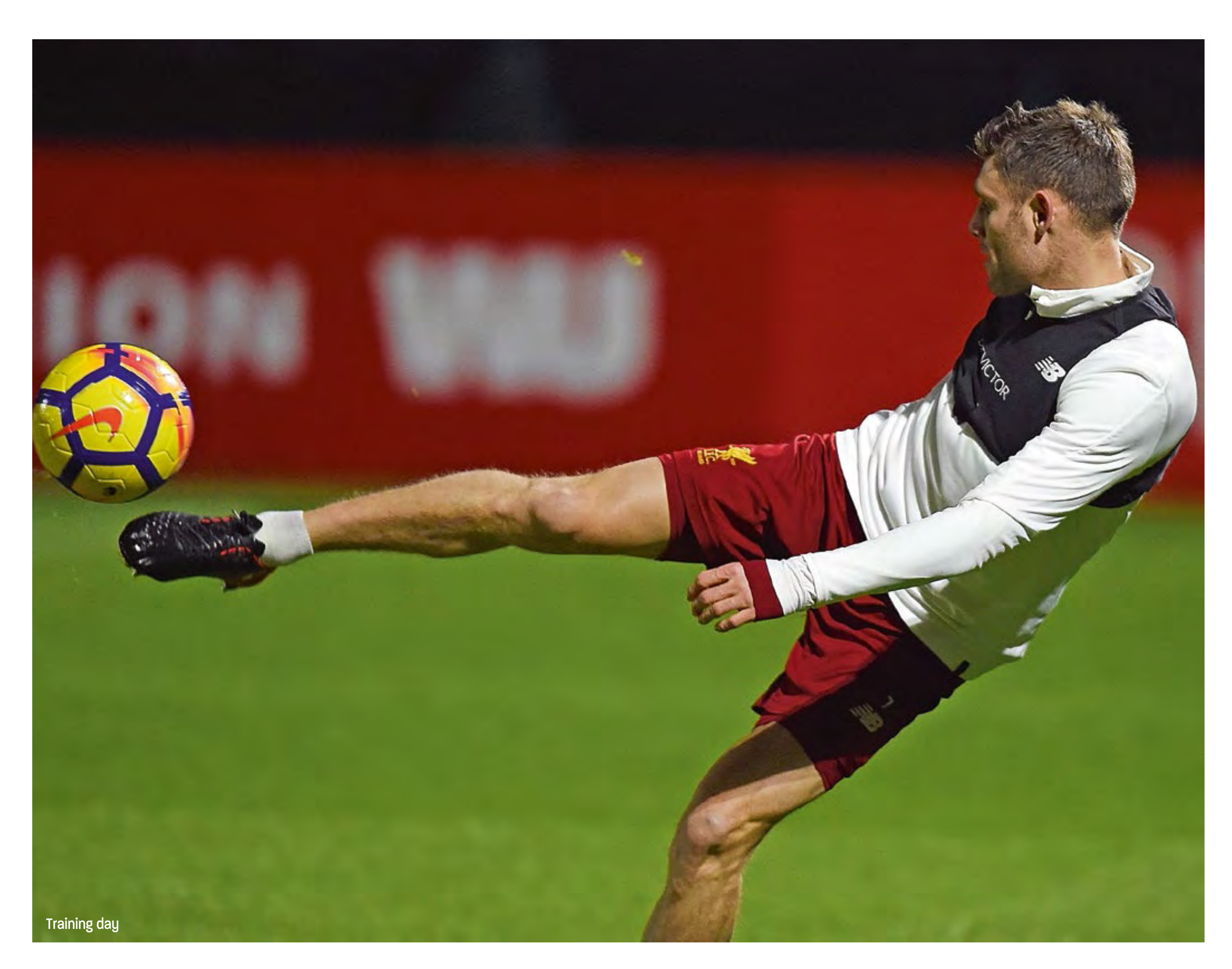









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Training day

Yes, but I still don't like being kicked! I got a knock the other day and I can still feel it now – my ankle's got a nice big purple bruise. At times the win over West Ham was that kind of game and I enjoyed being up against Mark Noble in their midfield. I've played with 'Nobes' for years and he's a great player and an honest player. I don't mind that physicality – it's a physical game after all – as long as it's honest.

The stats from that West Ham game show that you contested nine tackles and won eight, and had an 81.3 per cent success-rate in 'duels' – do you read much into all that?
It can be misleading because you can dress up an argument whichever way you want. But sometimes it can help too – ones like distance covered can be important for the team, also high-intensity runs when you're pressing, and recovery runs.

Would it be fair to describe you as an unselfish player? A lot of football writers seem to...
I guess it's always been my strength: creating goals and getting assists. I enjoy it as much as scoring, to be honest. Attacking has always been my strong point, even though perhaps I'm seen as more for defensive work and running. And as you get older I think you're able to read the game better. You see a picture of the game at particular moments in time, which takes us back to what we were saying about game-management.

For you what are the main differences between Premier League and Champions League football – is it down to styles or tempo or both?
Each league in Europe has its own styles and way of playing, as do the teams within that league. So you might have the more technical dimension in Spain and Portugal, for instance, but within those leagues there may be teams that adopt a more English approach too.

If the Premier League is 100 miles per hour, in Europe it gets up to that pace more intermittently – maybe only in the final third of the field where they'll move it around very quickly.

And of course in terms of physicality you've got to be a bit more careful because you can get booked easily in the Champions League.

Why do you think Sevilla away and Porto away were so different not just in terms of the result?
Again, game-management. Porto went so well because we defended excellently and attacked from that defensive, solid shape. It allows you to go forward and press when you have that solidity behind you. We also dealt with the atmosphere which was just as intense as Seville. So hopefully that's us improving in those respects.

Lastly what can we expect from the James Milner Foundation this year?
We've just passed our five-year anniversary and we support three charities: Leukaemia & Lymphoma Research, Help for Heroes and the NSPCC. We always organise a Charity Ball towards the end of the year and also host free holiday sports camps for kids whenever we can.

One of the big things we're working on is a match against a Stiliyan Petrov team at Celtic Park on Saturday 8 September. We're hoping to have some familiar faces like Jürgen and Stevie, as well as other ex-Liverpool players and former Premier League stars, so watch this space!

Interview: David Cottrell



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ORANGE CRUSH

How Liverpool Football Club's third strip has proved to be blindingly brilliant this season



starting lineup





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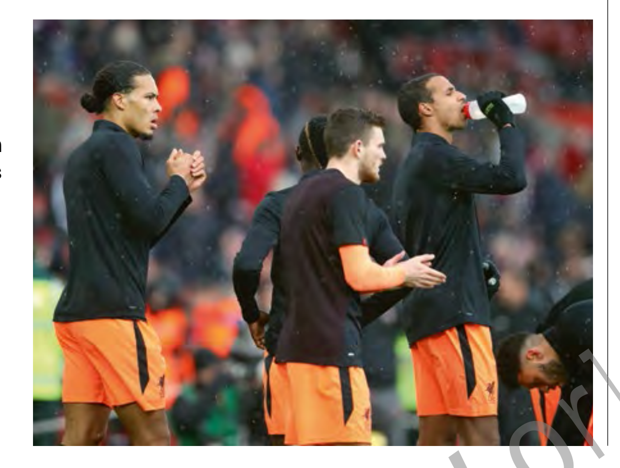
The Ox scores his first Premier League goal for Liverpool in Bold Citrus

When you launch a new football kit with the word 'Bold' in its official colour-scheme, you're kind of hoping your team won't be parking the bus any time soon. As if this Liverpool side ever would.

Indeed when they've worn this season's striking away kit they played some of their most confident and courageous football of 2017/18 – dazzling opponents with 24 goals in six competitive games while wearing orange, most spectacularly in the 5-0 win at Porto in the Champions League round-of-16 first leg.

New Balance's 'Bold Citrus' strip was unveiled last summer and launched during the pre-season trip to Hong Kong. Right from the start it proved a winner as the Reds overcame domestic rivals Crystal Palace 2-0 in the pre-season Premier League Asia Trophy tournament in Hong Kong. Forward Dominic Solanke was the first Liverpool player to score in it, with Divock Origi adding a second goal soon afterwards.

It wasn't until October, though, that the kit made it's competitive bow when Liverpool inflicted a 7-0 defeat upon NK Maribor in the Champions League group stage – their biggest-ever win in an away fixture in European competition.



Its next outing came at West Ham United the following month when more goals flowed for Jürgen Klopp's men at the London Stadium. A 4-1 win was secured with the Hammers struggling to deal with a counter-attacking blur as two goals from Mohamed Salah book-ended a devastating attacking display which also saw Joel Matip and Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain on target.

The bold November reign continued at the Britannia Stadium at the end of the month when Stoke City shipped three against the brightly-clad visitors. Sadio Mane opened the scoring that night before Salah came off the bench to claim another brace.

Liverpool's 100 per cent record in the kit did come to an end at the Emirates Stadium before Christmas, however. It had all started well enough with goals from Philippe Coutinho and Salah giving the travelling Kop plenty of seasonal cheer. Arsenal fought back to overturn the two-goal deficit and take the lead before Roberto

The team that won in Porto so handsomely

Firmino had the final say to earn a 3-3 draw with the team's 17th strike in just four outings in the strip.

February brought a return to winning ways twice in four days. First came a 2-0 victory at Southampton with Salah scoring again to seal the Premier League points after he'd earlier teed up Roberto Firmino's opener. And the Egyptian continued his record of having netted each time he's pulled on Bold Citrus when the team travelled to Portugal for the first leg of that Champions League tie.

Mo made it nine goals in six games with a sensational effort at the Estadio do Dragao as Liverpool romped to victory and took their tally in the kit to 24 in just six matches.

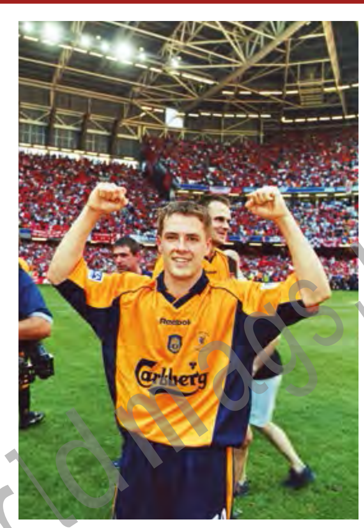
Remarkably the unbeaten record stretches to Academy football too. Neil Critchley's Under 23s have won league games at Arsenal (2-1), West Ham (2-0) and Sunderland (4-1) while donning the strip, as well as beating Stoke City 4-0 in the Premier League Cup and seeing off Fleetwood Town on penalties to win the Lancashire Senior Cup. Moreover Steven Gerrard's Under-18s drew 2-2 at Stoke City in a league game and his Under-19s won a UEFA Youth League fixture at Maribor 4-1.

Left-back Andy Robertson believes the kit has had a psychological effect: "Maybe teams think we're too bright to come near us, maybe we're doing something to their eyes! Seriously, this kit has been quite lucky for us – long may it continue."

Change-strip classics

2000/01: Michael Owen (right) inspired a Liverpool team in gold to FA Cup glory with his two late goals helping to overhaul Arsenal at Cardiff. At the start of the following season he was on target again as Liverpool landed the UEFA Super Cup by beating Bayern Munich 3-2 in Monaco while kitted out in a white jersey with black-and-amber detailing.

2013/14: Liverpool's third kit for this season featured a dominant black base with striking white-and-purple trim and was said to have taken inspiration from the 95/96 away kit. Brendan Rodgers' men played three Premier League games in the strip and won them all, netting 11 goals into the bargain with maximum points being secured at Sunderland (3-1), Stoke City (5-3) and Southampton (3-0).







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TO KNOW THAT YOU NEED TO FIGHT FOR YOUR POSITION IS HEALTHY – EVERY DAY WE'RE MAKING EACH OTHER BETTER

Trent Alexander-Arnold on the competition for first-team football and Melwood's heroes behind the scenes



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When Trent Alexander-Arnold played for the Reds at Porto last month, he achieved a new personal milestone of appearing in three successive first-team fixtures for the first time.

The 19-year-old, one of the five youngest Englishmen to play in the Champions League [Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain is also in that number], had previously been picked to start the Premier League games against Tottenham Hotspur and Southampton. He believes that adjusting to the demands of the first-team schedule has been one of his greatest tests in establishing himself as a member of manager Jürgen Klopp's first-team squad.

"In Academy football you probably play every Saturday and it's a set schedule whereas with senior football it varies all the time with changes to fixtures, your schedule and training times," he explains. "Everything changes and you've got to be ready to adapt and ready to go whenever you're called upon. A big part of the step-up from youth football to senior football is being able to adjust and to be ready at any point.

"There are so many fixtures over the course of the season. Even early on this season there were games coming every three or four days, so recovery, sleep, nutrition...everything comes into play then. When a lot's being demanded of your body, you have to look after it."

Alexander-Arnold adds that he's always been told that the body is a machine, and one that needs looking after properly. "You don't put diesel into a petrol car because it won't work, so if you're putting the wrong things into your body you're going to get the effects. I always remember that when maybe I'm choosing whether to have a burger or a salad!

"A lot goes into the thinking of what we eat and drink, and the nutritionists, the sports scientists and the fitness team, everyone behind the scenes is working really hard to make sure we get the right results on the weekend or during the midweek.

"Recovery, sleep, nutrition and hydration plays a big part in football at this level nowadays. That's why a lot of credit has to go to the behind-the-scenes staff that the fans don't really see too often. They help us understand and manage these things and I think that's a big part of why we haven't had too many injuries this season and why we've been able to perform well during the times when we've had a lot of games in short periods and been able to carry on the good results."



Scoring against Swansea at Anfield earlier this season

If Trent was feeling tired by the time the trip to the Estadio do Dragao came around, it didn't show as he turned in another exemplary display in a thrilling 5-0 victory. Reds Under-23s coach Neil Critchley was moved to comment: "It was great to watch him and I thought he produced a really mature performance.

"Every time you see him play you think: okay, you have got better and you are improving.

"He's still got a long way to go obviously and there are things he needs to improve on, but the way he is handling the occasion, the big occasions, you think he has definitely got the X-factor if you like.

"It's really pleasing to see how well Trent is doing at the moment.

"He knows he's got some competition on his hands – and rightly so at Liverpool – but to go away and perform the way he did against Porto, I thought it was an outstanding individual performance within an outstanding team performance."

Trent was naturally pleased to hear those words, especially coming



from someone with whom he worked closely during his time in the Academy ranks. "I have to say thanks to Critch because he really helped me develop, especially in the right-back position because it was under him that I first really adopted the right-back role.

"Obviously at the start it was a bit tough and a bit challenging for me personally, but he believed in me and kept playing me there. He always supported me in the right ways. We always used to have little chats about the position. Because I was his captain [at U23 level] I think it was a little bit easier to get on with him and we spoke a lot, we sat down and chatted, we watched videos of certain right-backs.

"We analysed a lot of things together and I have to say a lot of my knowledge about the right-back role has come from Critch, especially because he was always there for me when I first got into that position and he really helped me push forward."

With Joe Gomez and Nathaniel Clyne also targeting the right-back berth, Alexander-Arnold knows he


BETVICTOR

A LOT OF CREDIT GOES TO THE STAFF BEHIND THE SCENES THAT THE FANS DON'T SEE TOO OFTEN


Final whistle after the win over Newcastle

faces competition to add to his game-time in the final months of the season.

"I think that competition for places has to be a big part of Liverpool Football Club. To have a real squad-depth and to know that you need to fight for your position is healthy. If you have eleven positions and eleven players who know they are going to play week in, week out, then they could think: well look, I don't really need to try that hard in training anymore; whereas if you've got two or three players in each position who want to start and who can compete to start in each game, then every single day in training you've got people fighting for the spot.

"Of course, that's really healthy for the team moving forward because every day we're making each other better and with that the results get better, the performances get better and we improve as a team. So it's a really fresh atmosphere at the minute. Healthy competition is always good."

And in terms of that full-back position, Trent says he's feeling settled there. "I think people know that I've played in midfield in the past and that I am quite a versatile player, but in senior football it's a lot different to academy and youth football. I'm more than happy being a right-back because that is my position and that's where I see myself now.

"If the manager says to me at some point, 'You're not that position anymore – you're this position' then at that point it would be gone and I would be on to a new one. But right now I see myself as a right-back. It's about fighting for your place and wanting to play week in, week out. That's what I'll try and do."

A football fanatic, he admits it can be hard to switch off but thinks he has the balance right. "There's always a match on TV and it's all over social media nowadays. It just dominates everything so it is hard to escape. But if you need to do that, there are ways of being able to. Sometimes you need to, whereas sometimes it's heathy to watch games back, so that's what I try to do from time to time.

"I love football so I'll happily watch a game whenever it's on TV. In fact I get bored when I'm not watching football!

"I like to watch tennis and basketball too from time to time and I enjoy watching boxing as well. I think with a lot of sports you can pick up little things from different athletes. You see that all the best athletes have the same things in common and that's the hard work, the drive and the will to win that over the years I've realised is what you need to succeed."



Interview: William Hughes

Giving something back to the city

For several years Trent has been helping out as a volunteer for community charity, An Hour For Others – as reported recently by the *New York Times*, no less.

One of the founders of An Hour For Others is Kevin Morland, a painter and decorator who decided that his time and skills could help those in need more than a financial donation. He began redecorating children's bedrooms in some of Liverpool's most deprived areas at no cost, and slowly the idea spread. An Hour for Others now offers everything from cooking classes taught by professional chefs to dance, yoga and science sessions.

When Trent was in his mid-teens he helped Morland load boxes of donated toys into his van. Then together with Kris Owens, his best friend at the Liverpool FC Academy, he sketched out a plan. "We said that if either of us made it, we would help out the charity," he told the *NY Times* sports section. "As a local lad I was keen to get involved. I can relate to the kids and I know what impact it can have just to show that it is possible."


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Casey Stoney on her incredible playing career and an exciting new challenge with the England Women's team

LIVER BIRD TO LIONESS



It must have been a whirlwind few weeks for you?
Yes it was. I met Phil Neville back in mid-January and had a chat with him. The FA then spoke to me about the player-to-coach pilot-scheme they're running, and Phil was keen to have me on board. At 35, nearly 36 years old, and with a family to think about, it was an opportunity that I just couldn't turn down.

I had dreams when I was 16 or 17 of potentially being England manager one day and so this, for me, is an amazing opportunity.

At the same time it's bittersweet. There were quite a few tears in the dressing-room before the Sunderland game [which Liverpool Ladies won 3-1 on Wednesday 21 February] knowing it was my last game and my last time sitting in a changing-room with my team-mates.

IT WAS AN AMAZING NIGHT AND I FELT LIKE I HAD A SOLID PERFORMANCE IN MY LAST GAME

I love Liverpool Football Club and I love this Ladies team. I have to thank them because when I came here to the club, I was a little bit down about football and I feel like they picked me up, inspired me and motivated me, so I couldn't have asked to finish with a better group of people.

Has coaching always been something you've been interested in?
I've been coaching since I was 17. I did my level-two badge when I was really young and I've always coached alongside my playing. I've been player-manager at Chelsea which was one of the toughest things I've done. I've been a head-coach at Lincoln and also coached boys' under-18s. I've had vast experiences from tying shoelaces at summer schools to being head-coach of under-18s teams. So I've done a lot and coaching is my passion outside of playing and I actually think it's the next best thing you can do to playing.

When I was with the England team in La Manga in January, I knew it was the right time to retire because there wasn't one moment when I wished I was on the other side playing. I

absolutely loved the coaching and I found it so rewarding. I've had some amazing times playing but now, for me, it's time to give back.

You've had an incredible playing career...

Do you know what, I look back with so many memories because we take something from every moment in a game and whether it's a good time or a bad time, it's a learning experience. The highlight was walking out with my kids against Sunderland for my last game.

I've had an amazing 18 years with the England senior team. I've had some fantastic clubs. I've won FA Cups at Wembley and I've won league titles so I'll look back and I'll be so, so proud that I'll be able to share those memories with my children. I always wanted to leave my shirt in a better place than when I started and I definitely feel like I've done that.

The profile of women's football in this country is certainly different from when you started out as a teenager in the late 1990s...

It's a world away from when I started and we used to train twice a week. There wasn't any publicity, any cameras, no-one was interested. Now we've got a real opportunity with a World Cup in 2019 where we can hopefully be successful and keep growing the game.

We've got more girls taking the game up every week and there are more opportunities for girls to play, opportunities that didn't exist when I was younger. If my little girls grow up with the same opportunities as my little boy then I will feel like I've played a part in that. Every player that's played before me has also done their bit to get the game to where it is now.



A tribute from the fans and (inset) Casey getting her MBE in 2015

Did you enjoy your role with England as technical-assistant in the January training camp in La Manga?

Definitely. [Interim manager] Mo Marley threw me in at the deep end. She told me: "You're not going to be a



A post-match word for the cameras

passenger" and I loved it. I had great support around me and the girls said that it was very natural which is just what I wanted. I didn't want it to be weird for the players.

I'm an all-or-nothing person so I have to throw myself whole-heartedly into this and that's why I've taken the decision to retire because I felt it wasn't fair on the team to give half to them and then half to this [England] job.

This Liverpool team deserve more than that. So it's better that I retire so then I can throw myself 100 per cent into this job and make sure that I do it to the best of my ability.

You signed off by helping the Ladies team to a good win – no better way to finish?

To be honest with you, from start to finish it was an amazing night. I walked out with my kids, we scored three goals and produced a good performance. I felt like I had a solid performance for my last game as well which I was pleased with because


England boss Phil Neville

I didn't want to go out on a bad one and I thanked the girls.

I was emotional afterwards but I thanked the girls for sending me off with a win and a great performance. I also need to thank Scott Rogers. He's been amazingly supportive during this time and I also need to thank Liverpool FC because without their support, I couldn't do this.

There are plenty of talented players and potential internationals in the Liverpool squad...

Yes definitely. There are some really good young players out there and I think if they keep working hard and doing the right things then the only way is up.

Liverpool are sitting quite nicely in the league and I think we're exceeding people's expectations, but that's down to the hard work and dedication of the staff and the players and I've been really, really proud to be part of this football club.

I've said to Scott that I'm not just going to go away. I want to remain part of this football club and its future and hopefully I will be able to come back and work with the girls in a coaching capacity as well.

You have to be patient with young players. You can't expect them to be at the level straightaway and so you have to give them time. At Liverpool, the first team is full-time but the Development Squad and the Centre

I LOVE LIVERPOOL FC AND THIS LADIES TEAM – I COULDN'T HAVE FINISHED WITH A BETTER GROUP



Showcasing the new England kit in 2003 with some famous faces

of Excellence teams don't train full-time so to bridge the gap you have to be patient sometimes.

Ali Johnson's played quite a number of games recently, Niamh Charles has been exceptional for us when she's played and Ellie Fletcher's had a few tastes of first-team football too. It's about giving them a little taste, seeing how they cope and then working with them to develop. There are also a good group of more senior girls at Liverpool who will help us to nurture those young players through.

Phil Neville will look to utilise your vast experience in the women's game...

Definitely, and likewise it will be great for me to be able to tap into his knowledge. He comes from an amazing history of football. His winning mentality is unbelievable. His dedication to work hard and to be relentless in the pursuit of excellence is something that mirrors mine so we're quite like-minded in that way.

I want to support him in areas he doesn't know about, but football's football and if you always do what you always did, then you will always get what you always got.

I don't see his lack of previous managerial experience as a negative. Baroness Sue Campbell [the FA's head of women's football] said that they had 147 applications but they got it down to a final ten. It wasn't a job that anyone wanted or felt that they could take because our media made it quite difficult for people.

Phil's taken it, he's passionate about it. He's not done it for the money, he's done it because he firmly believes that he's got an England team that can win the World Cup.

Helping establish a pathway for young talent through to the senior England team will also be important...

Absolutely. That pathway's massive, and something that I'll be looking forward to doing in my job role is linking with the youth age-groups so that they can see that there is that pathway. Hopefully the faces coming through will feel more comfortable in the England environment and we can challenge and stretch them in the right ways.

Mo Marley's been an incredible interim manager and has done a fantastic job with the 19s and the 20s. If we can have more of a link coming through then we'll be able to bring more players into that senior team because everybody has to retire at some point.

The FIFA Women's World Cup in France in 2019 is a big target...

Yes, absolutely, and that's the thing for me. I said to the girls we're ranked one in Europe but I'd rather be ranked one in Europe with a trophy in the cabinet. That's what counts.

Rankings are great and we've done fantastic work to get there. But we want to win something, and these players are desperate to win something too, so it's about how much more we can do, how far we can go, how much we can drain out of every resource, out of every player to make sure that we go to a World Cup and we can do something special.



Casey's incredible career so far

Signed for Liverpool Ladies in December 2016 and played 19 games, scoring once. Capped 130 times by England and part of the squads that reached the final of Euro 2009 and semis of the 2015 World Cup. Replaced Faye White as England captain in 2012. Skippered GB at the 2012 Olympics. Received an MBE in 2015. Won two top-flight titles, four FA Cups and four League Cups.

Interview: William Hughes



Everton v Liverpool, Saturday 21 September 1985, as recalled in this exclusive extract from the brilliant new book Two Tribes by Tony Evans

DERBY



After the nadir of the Super Cup came a game that set the blood racing for fans of Everton and Liverpool. The 133rd Merseyside derby took place at Goodison Park on a wild, rainy day. These were arguably the best two teams in Europe. They were certainly the finest sides not involved in Continental competition.

The two groups of players drank and socialised together. They were mates. Until the derby loomed.

"Off the field we got on great," Graeme Sharp said. "A lot of us lived near one another in Southport. We'd see each other when we were out and we'd send drinks across to each other. I lived next door to Ronnie Whelan, a great fella. We'd avoid each other derby week but otherwise we were all mates."

As an Australian, Craig Johnston might have been dispassionate about a match like this. Instead, he got caught up in the tension, emotion and drama as much as any local. He dreaded derby days as much as he embraced them.

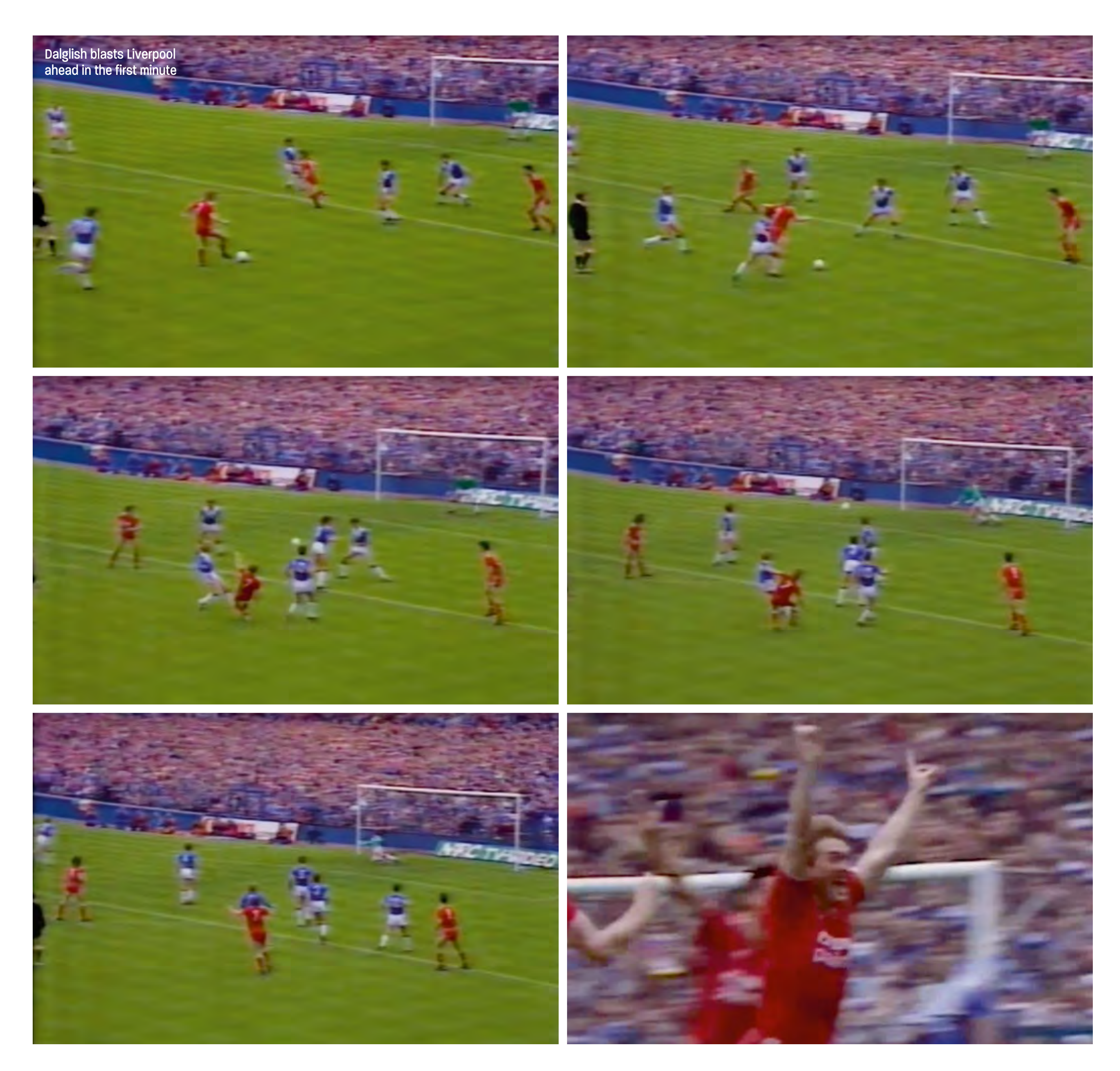
"I'd be ****ing myself," he said. "I was sick with worry. If you do something good, then great. But if you lose the ball, all the Blues are laughing at you and all the Reds are moaning. It's the most frightening place in the world. There's 50,000 Scousers howling abuse at you."

In the away dressing-room at Goodison, while the maelstrom began to crescendo, Johnston found a way to dampen his fear. "I looked around. I had Hansen to my left, Dalglish in front of me, Rush to the side. I'd been thinking about Peter Reid trying to cut me in half. Then I thought: what the **** am I worried about? Imagine if I was sitting in the Everton dressing-room?"

Mark Lawrenson did not enjoy the hullabaloo around these games. "They're horrible," the centre half said. "The worst thing is the fear of getting beat. It didn't matter where anyone was in the table, top or bottom, it was brutal."

Defeat was unthinkable. Losing meant a player's life was miserable until the next derby. "I had a car sponsored by Skyway Ford in Halewood and it had my name all over it," Lawrenson said. "If we lost, I hated stopping at traffic lights. You couldn't look around because there'd be an Evertonian gloating or giving me two fingers. If someone beeped you, you learnt not to look up. When we got beat, I used to use my wife's car. It was easier."

Graeme Sharp came down from Scotland and was quickly made aware how much this match mattered. Initially, the Everton striker was surprised: "Fans would come up



Dalglish blasts Liverpool ahead in the first minute

to you and say, 'I can't go into work if you lose'. You'd think: is that really true? It was."

Everton were confident. They had won three derbies in a row. Before the game, Howard Kendall was presented with his Manager of the Year award from the previous season. The accolade had gone to a Liverpool boss eight times in the previous 12 years. With Dalglish as first-year manager, it felt like a changing of the guard was taking place.

Dalglish sprung a shock with his team. Jan Molby, the midfielder who Brian Glanville once described as "corpulent enough to be playing darts for Denmark" was deployed as a sweeper in an attempt to neutralize Everton's pace. No one was more surprised than the Dane.

"Kenny was a great student of the game," Molby said. "He loved Italian football. He was very versatile in his tactics. Half-an-hour before the derby, he said to me, 'Go and play between Hansen and Lawrenson and keep an eye on Lineker'."

It was a daunting task. The slowest man in the Liverpool team was assigned to watch the whippet-like Lineker.

Bobby Robson, sitting in the stands, was shocked. The England manager turned to the journalist John Keith of the *Daily Express* and said, "Liverpool playing with a sweeper? When did you ever see that?"

The action came at the other end, though. Everton kicked off with their usual ploy, punting the ball towards the opposition's corner flag so that their midfield terriers could press the defence deep in Liverpool territory. Alan Hansen was waiting for the ball and headed it back to Bruce Grobbelaar. The goalkeeper took one touch and then passed it out to Steve Nicol. The full-back controlled the ball, looked up and banged a long pass 60 yards down the pitch towards Ian Rush, who was lurking in the inside-right position on the edge of the Everton box.

Rush had his back to goal and was closely policed by Kevin Ratcliffe. The Welsh striker flicked the ball back towards Dalglish and, as the defence backpedalled, the player-manager curled a shot into the far corner of the net from 20 yards to record his first league goal of the season.

The Park End, where the Liverpool supporters congregated, erupted. The visitors were leading 1-0 after 25 seconds. All around the stadium, groups of Reds celebrated. In the enclosure near the corner flag where we were standing, there was a short, sharp brawl. The friendly derby has its comradeship tested at moments like this. Liverpool were on top.

Everton looked stunned. Rush, Goodison's nemesis, doubled the lead 15 minutes later. Gary Stevens made a hash of a defensive header and Ronnie Whelan and Rush were left clear on goal. Neville Southall charged to the edge of his box but as the goalkeeper arrived Whelan slid the ball to Rush to place into the empty net. Kendall's side were in disarray.

Just before half-time, Liverpool added to their lead. Dalglish, under pressure on the edge of the opposition box, pulled the ball back to Steve McMahon, who rammed home a shot from 20 yards.

McMahon had come through the Everton youth system but felt under-appreciated and underpaid at Goodison. He left to join Aston Villa and was a very recent arrival at Anfield. Liverpool paid £350,000 for his services three weeks before the derby. When the new signing was introduced to the crowd before the Watford match, he was greeted with chants of "Everton reject!" from the Kop. Now he leapt high in celebration, punching the air in joy. He would never be jeered again by Liverpool fans.

At half-time, Kendall tried to staunch the wounds. "Howard was never a ranter but he was unhappy," Southall said. He was not the only one. Losing dressing-rooms are rarely comfortable places but being routed in a derby led to some furious exchanges between players. Ian Marshall, a centre half making his debut, was out of his depth and was replaced by Adrian Heath, a forward, as Kendall shuffled his side. It was a different Everton in the second half.

Seven minutes after the restart, McMahon got caught in possession, allowing Paul Bracewell to shoot. The effort was blocked but Graeme Sharp jumped on the rebound and hammered home: 3-1.

The diminutive Heath was nicknamed 'Inchy', after the cartoon detective show *Inch High, Private Eye*, but the striker's intelligence and movement gave Everton another dimension.

"Inchy was important to them," Lawrenson said. "He made things happen. He could always find angles."

Sharp always felt better with Heath on the pitch. "He was the best partner I had at Goodison," the striker said. "He was intelligent and the partnership came naturally. We had an almost telepathic understanding."

Heath found room in the box to shoot with seven minutes left and his cross-cum-shot was turned into the net by Lineker, who scored his eighth



Rush makes it two

Former Blue McMahon drills home the third

goal of the season. At 3-2, Everton were on top and pouring forward towards the Gwladys Street End in search of an equaliser. Liverpool were dangerous on the break, though, and twice Dalglish shot wide when one-on-one with Southall. At the final whistle, the players of both sides collapsed exhausted.

Kendall was generous afterwards and had a playful dig at Dalglish. "My great disappointment is that their manager refused my hospitality and didn't accept the offer of a traditional drink before the kick-off. Can't think why."

The Liverpool boss joined the mood of levity when asked about his missed sitters. "Disgraceful," he said. "The manager is not happy."

Everyone else was. The plaudits came pouring in. Veteran reporter John Keith wrote it was "the greatest collision between Everton and Liverpool I have seen in almost 30 years." England manager Robson concurred: "I have been in football for 35 years and I don't recall seeing a better game in my life."

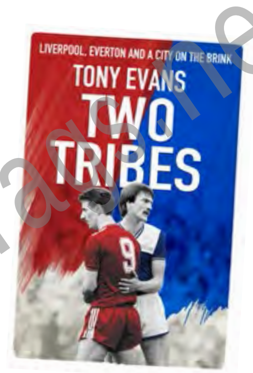
Stuart Jones in *The Times* gushed: "It was extraordinary by any standards. If there is a finer game anywhere across the Continent, let alone the first division, this season, it will be a rich privilege and a rare pleasure to see."

They saw it in Egypt, where the game was broadcast live, and in numerous countries across the world. In Britain, only those inside the stadium were able to witness the spectacle. Those of us who were there were breathless.

Weeks later, a VHS cassette arrived in the post at our house, a copy of an Australian highlights package featuring the derby recorded by friends Down Under.

It did not play properly on our recorder and the action was almost obscured by greenish ghosts on the screen. Still, people were desperate to see it. It was lent around the city and numerous copies made.

Even those who had been in the ground wanted to relive the experience. Football needed television back and it needed it soon.



■ **Two Tribes by Tony Evans recalls the tumultuous 1985/86 season and the titanic struggle for supremacy between the two great Merseyside clubs. Published by Bantam Press it's priced £18.99 (hardback) and available from 22 March 2018.**


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Neil Mellor

How Bobby has become the ultimate modern centre-forward

Mo Salah has got most of the headlines this season but Roberto Firmino's importance to the way Liverpool perform – and perform well – should not be underestimated. His involvement is crucial.

He came to the club in 2015 as an attacking midfielder and we wondered if he was a wide player or a no10, but now everybody recognises the Brazilian as an out-and-out centre-forward. A number nine. He is Liverpool's main centre-forward and has performed so well that Daniel Sturridge couldn't get a look in when he was fit. Both Firmino and Jürgen Klopp deserve credit for that.

Firmino's work-rate is clear for all to see. In the past a player like Ian Rush would set the tone by working hard and Firmino does the same. He works tirelessly and is probably the best centre-forward in the Premier League at winning the ball back and he does so in good areas, mainly by putting defensive midfield players under pressure.

That allows Salah and Sadio Mane to get forward and run at defenders and the second goal against Newcastle at Anfield recently was a great example of that happening. He won a tackle to start the move, received the ball back and supplied Mane with a defence-splitting final pass. It was a fantastic goal.

Out of possession Firmino is a false nine, but in possession he isn't a false nine. He holds the ball up and links the play, but he also runs in behind and gets onto the end of things in the penalty area. For me that makes him a false nine and number nine, a proper centre-forward.

He scored 23 goals in his first two seasons at Liverpool and got his 22nd goal of 2017/18 in the 4-1 win against West Ham. That increase in goals is because he has really established himself as Klopp's first-choice striker this season and due to the players he has around him, but he has also remained very unselfish.

Firmino will take responsibility by scoring goals, but he is also one of the most unselfish number nines you will ever see. Time and time again he picks out the right option for a team-mate to score instead of shooting himself, something that makes him different to a lot of other centre-forwards in the game.

When Philippe Coutinho left for Barcelona in January I was concerned that it could unsettle Firmino because his compatriot and friend would no longer be in the dressing-room alongside him and around to spend time with off the pitch. That can affect some players' performances so it has been good to see Firmino still playing with a big smile on his face and producing as many goals – if not more – than when Coutinho was here. I'm not sure I'd have tried a no-look finish, though!

Firmino has made that finish his own and while it us unusual to see it shows how confident he is. You could argue it's risky, but he's clever enough to know when he can and can't do it, so it's been quite different to see and popular on social media.

The good thing is that I believe Firmino can get even better. He's only 26 and playing alongside two 25-year-olds in Salah and Mane. Virgil van Dijk is 26 and Naby Keita, when he arrives, is 23.

Klopp is building a team around players who have got so much football left in them and Firmino is one of those players. He is really enjoying himself in this team and I also think he has benefited from playing in the Champions League.

The best players want to be in the Champions League and he has scored eight goals in the competition so far, a phenomenal return before the quarter-finals. He is showcasing what he can do in European football and is thriving by being the central figure in one of the most exciting three-man front-lines anywhere in world football.

So I think there is a lot more to come, but ultimately what we want to see is a team with Firmino, Salah, Mane, Van Dijk and the rest develop into a side that wins trophies for Liverpool Football Club. The potential for that to happen is clear for all to see.



Don't try this at home!



Local children enjoy a tour of the stadium as part of the club's Red Neighbours programme – but what are the four key issues it supports in and around Anfield?

Answer on page 98

All the latest news as the club and its players strive to make a difference on and off the pitch





Steven with LFC Foundation youngsters at last year's event

THE LEGENDS ARE COMING

And this time it's Bayern Munich taking on the mighty former Reds at Anfield in March



FC Bayern will be on this year's pennant

Last year it was Liverpool Legends 4 Real Madrid Leyendas 3 in front of over 53,000 at Anfield. Now a new challenger awaits.

On Saturday 24 March 2018, at 3pm, Bayern Munich Legends will walk out in front of the Kop determined to beat the Redmen of yesteryear in Anfield's second official LFC Foundation Legends Charity Match.

Managed by 1990 World Cup-winner Klaus Augenthaler, who spent his entire career at FC Bayern and played against Liverpool in the 1981 European Cup semi-final, Germany's most successful club aren't just coming to Merseyside to make up the numbers and have a lovely day-out.

They are Bayern Munich. They're used to winning. Five European Cups, 27 Bundesliga titles, 18 DFB-Pokals. But in three visits to Anfield they've never even scored, let alone won, so when we asked Lothar Matthaus – the only outfield player to have appeared in five World Cups and

West Germany's winning skipper in 1990 – whether he'd be playing in central midfield or as a sweeper, it became apparent how seriously Bayern are taking the match.

"I can play both positions but that's for the manager to decide. We will certainly not give away our team tactics beforehand. We're playing for the Foundations so that we can help many sick children with the proceeds. Doing that and having fun is most important – but winning is always more fun than losing."

Matthaus will be joined in the FC Bayern line-up by a galaxy of stars including Bixente Lizarazu, Mark van Bommel, Carsten Jancker, Ze Roberto, Roy Makaay, Sergio, Giovane Elber, Hans-Jorg Butt and Luca Toni in a match that is being televised in Germany. But there is also one legend who will play for both sides on the day: Xabi Alonso.

"I am really looking forward to it," says the Spanish playmaker who was with the Reds from 2004-09 and won so much silverware during his career he could open his own museum! "It is always special to go back to Anfield and to be there on the pitch, in the middle. It's been a while! I'm sure I will have lots of memories coming back to me as soon as I'm out there on the pitch."

Player-manager Ian Rush has got some impressive names to select from including Steven Gerrard, Jamie Carragher, Robbie Fowler, Dirk Kuyt, John Aldridge, Gary McAllister and Luis Garcia, with Fowler admitting that he'll be going through the pain-barrier just to pull on a red shirt again.

"I played in a game with the lads for five minutes when we met up for training and my body was in agony afterwards, but for all the aches and pains and soreness I'd do it all again just to play at Anfield in front of the Liverpool fans. I love this club so any chance I get to put a shirt on again



Xabi's heading back to Anfield!



and run out in front of maybe a full house...I'll never get tired of that, I really won't."

Along with other fundraising activities last year's Legends match against Real Madrid raised over £1 million and Head of Liverpool FC Foundation Andrea Cooper is looking forward to another memorable afternoon.

"Our mission is 'life changing opportunities for children and young people' so bringing together the LFC family is a big part of that," she explains. "This game will raise a lot of money, but even if it didn't it is just a great opportunity for the LFC family to build that community of ex-players, local families and Liverpool fans.

"It also allows parents to bring their kids along and show them who their favourite players were, making today a family celebration at Anfield."

For the latest ticket availability visit liverpoolfc.com. A special LFC Legends v Bayern Munich Legends matchday programme featuring exclusive interviews with Xabi Alonso, Robbie Fowler, Klaus Augenthaler and Lothar Matthaus will be available from Anfield, club stores and **sportmediashop.com**.

Loads of other fun activities too!

Auctioneer Graham Budd with an old Kop sign

THE GREAT ANFIELD AUCTION

Some rather special LFC memorabilia went under thew hammer at Anfield just recently







Last month over 300 items from Liverpool Football Club's old Main Stand went under the hammer to be auctioned off to fans – and not surprisingly they were swept up by avid Reds, most selling for considerably more than their original estimates.

For the first time the club was giving its supporters an opportunity to bid for their own piece of LFC history, in a live auction-room setting at Anfield.

An exhibition of the items was held in the Main Stand over two days, and the event was managed by Graham Budd Auctions with a donation from the proceeds made to the Liverpool Former Players Association via the LFC Foundation, to support a local charity of their choice that helps young people across Merseyside.

The driving force behind this unique occasion was the re-building of the Main Stand. This hugely significant project saw the end of the 1970s-era stand pulled down while retaining the original 1906 Archibald Leitch section intact, beneath the new structure that opened in September 2016.

Club curator Stephen Done said: "This auction was just one of the



Shanks forever

THIS AUCTION IS ONE OF THE SPECIAL EVENTS MARKING THE CLUB'S 125TH ANNIVERSARY

special events to mark our 125th anniversary. The former players are a huge part of Liverpool Football Club's rich and colourful history. Without their tremendous talent and contribution, we wouldn't have such prestigious memorabilia and fantastic memories.

"The items on offer in the auction were both unique and diverse – from directional signage that hung on the walls of the Main Stand to the actual dugout seats the Reds manager and team used pitch-side.

"We were extremely careful in filtering the selection of lots to ensure we retained vital mementos of past games and heroes enabling us to tell the story of our wonderful club."

Among the big sellers were a maquette of the Bill Shankly statue that stands outside the Kop, which went for £28,000, and the large club crests formerly situated on each stand roof, which sold for bids of £8,000, £4,800 and £4,400.

Graham Budd, the man with the hammer, commented: "It is pretty unusual to have a football club auction off so much memorabilia. There is some precedence for it, most recently when West Ham United moved to the Olympic Stadium from Upton Park – they had a similar event at their ground – and before that, when Arsenal moved out of Highbury



In the frame: classic headlines and team shots





Now that's what you call a Top Trumps card set!

What a shot

It's a signage thing


Liverpool Echo
Tribute to a soccer legend
SHANKS
MAN OF THE PEOPLE
'Their affection swept over me —I nearly cried'

Some of the football club's more unusual trophies









to the Emirates Stadium. But events like this are unusual and special when a club like Liverpool is involved.

"Liverpool thought very, very carefully about holding the auction. The club wanted to make sure that anything on offer, in the overall scheme of Liverpool's great history, was not something they could possibly give up on. So we ended up with a layer of memorabilia, 384 items in total, that were made available for passionate fans to bid for, allowing them to keep the club's heritage going themselves."




The view's not bad either











Going, going... Liverpool FC curator Stephen Done's five fave lots

1 An LFC crest removed from the perimeter fence/gate to the Main Stand at Anfield in June 2016 (the other similar crests are all preserved in the LFC Museum collection for future relocation in the new Main Stand and elsewhere).

2 A Tom Murphy maquette of his celebrated statue of Bill Shankly that stands at the entrance to Anfield, one of three presented to LFC as part of the commission of the full-size sculpture sponsored by Carlsberg in 1998. Two are preserved by LFC and will never be available. Cast in beautifully patinated bronze, mounted on a pale marble base.

3 Framed 12-inch LFC long-playing record that formerly hung in the stadium's (old) Main Stand near the Directors Guest Lounge, entitled *The Kop Choir*, and another that hung inside the Lounge, entitled *O Liverpool We Love You*.

4 Brushed-aluminium 'Club Guest Lounge' sign in use around 1974-2015; signage from the 2015/16 season Hospitality Marquee, 'The Trophy Room'; and aluminium 'Home Team Dressing Room'.

5 A row of five linked seats from the dugout area in the old Main Stand at Anfield; featuring red upholstery with New Balance branding.

LET'S STICK TOGETHER

Launch of club's new association for former players given thumbs-up by goalscoring aces

Robbie, Aldo and Cally

Liverpool Football Club has launched its official former players association, *Forever Reds*, with an occasion marked by stars recounting their favourite memories of playing at Anfield to local schoolchildren.

The creation of *Forever Reds* has been driven by the club's desire to ensure former players always feel part of the LFC family – providing support, involving them in important work in the local community, and keeping them informed of new developments.

Ex-forward Ian Rush, who'll be managing the Legends team against Bayern Munich in the forthcoming LFC Foundation Charity Match, says: "It's fantastic to see the club setting up *Forever Reds*, as a more formal way of bringing everyone together.

"Peter Moore [club CEO] was instrumental in this and I'm delighted that the generation before mine is being recognised: the players from the 1960s in particular, Ian Callaghan and others from that era, set the standards. They are the reason why Liverpool FC is the club it is today; why players who come here to this day must understand that they can't perform for, say, three games out of six, it has to five at a bare minimum.

Fellow ex-marksman John Aldridge, the new chair of *Forever Reds*, adds: "This is great news for all former Liverpool players. You never lose the connection to this club and our supporters, so to have this link made official cements our place in the history of the LFC and means we can do great things together for our local communities."

And from Peter Moore: "What better season to launch *Forever Reds* than our 125th anniversary year which has reflected on our legacy so far. Our former players are a fundamental part of our rich history and will forever be a part of the LFC family. I'm delighted we have officially recognised this special group of people and I look forward to seeing Forever Reds grow and flourish."

Ex-players who'd like to be involved can email **foreverreds@liverpoolfc.com**.







LFC HELPS BUILD BETTER INTERNET

Reds legend Robbie helps promotes online safety among city's next generation

Legendary Liverpool goalscorer Robbie Fowler joined over 400 local schoolchildren at Anfield recently as LFC Foundation hosted a series of events for Safer Internet Day (SID) 2018 which was celebrated globally on Tuesday 6 February this year.

Working alongside SID tutors, the club held two education events at Anfield with 60 local schools, with youngsters shown how to spot positive and negative behaviour online and what strategies they can use to resolve online conflicts in a healthy and positive way.

Robbie, joined by club mascot Mighty Red and CEO Peter Moore, said: "As a dad myself



I understand the importance of staying safe online and the need for regular education for both parents and kids about how to spot the dangers. The internet provides so many benefits when it's used in a safe and responsible way."

Will Gardner, director of UK Safer Internet Centre, added: "We would like to extend our thanks to Liverpool Football Club for their fantastic support in helping make Safer Internet Day 2018 such a success.

"Safer Internet Day is a unique opportunity for everyone across the United Kingdom to come together to build a better internet, and it is through the support of organisations such as Liverpool FC that we are able to reach so many young people and help us empower them to have a safe and positive time online."

There was also a range of carousel themes delivered by the club, SID tutors and other external organisations for the pupils to explore, including 'How To Change The World In 10 Seconds' and 'Safe Gaming'. All teachers in attendance also received education packs to take back to their schools to further communicate the key learnings.

Liverpool Football Club is passionate about our community, and our official charity, LFC Foundation, continues to deliver a wide range of programmes and partnerships to create life-changing opportunities for children and young people.













HELPING ALDER HEY

Thanks to Reds supporters the Foundation donated £225k to hospital's Institute in the Park

Robbie, Gary Mac, Rushie and co and the number that says it all

As well as all the excitement and anticipation ahead of the LFC Foundation Legends Charity Match 2018 against Bayern Munich, there's also the very real and precious benefits that it brings to the Foundation's charity partners.

Take for example LFC Foundation's £225k donation to Alder Hey Children's Charity for the hospital's new research, innovation and education facility. The funds were raised by Reds fans and the wider LFC family who attended and supported the Legends Charity Match v Real Madrid at Anfield in March 2017, alongside other LFC Foundation fundraising activities held across the year.



The Institute in the Park will enable the hospital to develop better, safer medicines and treatments to benefit young patients at Alder Hey and children across the world. It will also be home to the Alder Hey Academy aiming to provide the very best healthcare education across the NHS and abroad.

LFC legends including Ian Rush, Robbie Fowler and Gary McAllister visited the hospital to meet patients who are benefiting from the research, and Andrea Cooper, head of LFC Foundation said: "We have a longstanding relationship with the hospital and it's fantastic to be able to make this donation for such an important cause.

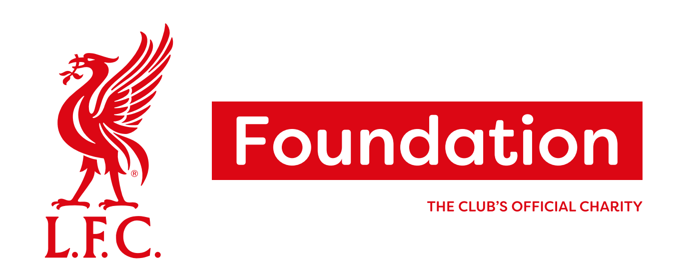
"We know from our fans that the health and life-chances of children and young people is an issue close to their hearts.

"It's thanks to our fans and the LFC family that we raised an amazing £1m at last year's Charity Match, in addition to funds raised at our other events, and we are hoping to achieve the same level of support this year.

"The funds don't only support our own programmes but our other charities and non-profit partners: University of Liverpool and INTO University North Liverpool project, the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, as well as Alder Hey Children's Charity."






Foundation
THE CLUB'S OFFICIAL CHARITY
L.F.C.

Simon with participants at the learning centre

A CHANCE TO SHINE

LFC Foundation backs higher-education for youngster and the fight against hate-crime

Goalkeeper Simon Mignolet has helped to launch a new learning centre in North Liverpool for youngsters to improve their educational attainment.

The IntoUniversity North Liverpool centre in Anfield is run by national education charity IntoUniversity in partnership with the University of Liverpool and LFC Foundation – the first collaboration of its kind.

The project will engage and inspire young people using the badge and reach of Liverpool Football Club through its official charity, LFC Foundation.

Based at the Anfield Business Centre, Breckfield Road South, and building on existing outreach projects, it will work with up to 1,000 young people in Anfield and its environs to improve their chances of gaining a university place.

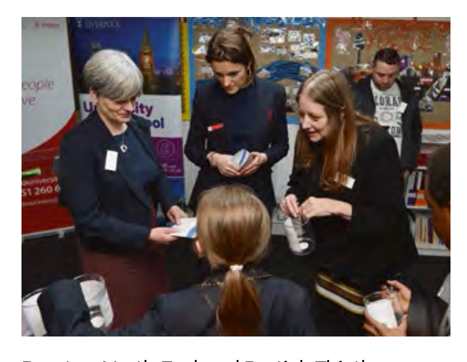
LFC Foundation is also donating 125 tickets to IntoUniversity North Liverpool for its young users to enjoy the LFC Legends Charity Match v Bayern Munich at Anfield on Saturday 24 March.

Elsewhere the Foundation's Premier League Kicks programme held two half-term football tournaments in support of Hate Crime Awareness Week 2018.

Aiming to bring young people together, promote equality and diversity, and create a safe environment in which to play football, the competitions were held across two city venues at either end of the February break.

Anfield Sports & Community Centre played host to the first event, a nine-a-side tournament which saw Kicks participants aged 11-13 against teams from Everton, Preston North End and Partick Thistle. The Anthony Walker Foundation also delivered their 'Colour Blind' workshop, educating the youngsters on the impact and consequences of racism.

The following Saturday, a six-a-side challenge at the Firefit Hub in Toxteth welcomed teams from six citywide Kicks sessions. Anfield, Belle Vale and Toxteth were represented, alongside Positive Futures, Garston Venny and The Al Ghazali Centre. An educational workshop, based around the five strands of hate-crime, was also delivered by Merseyside Police, highlighting the issue of prejudice and encouraging victims or witnesses of such crime to come forward.





Six-a-side teams at one of the football tournaments



REDS ON TOAST!

Ragnar and Danny help serve up the food at Anfield's week of half-term breakfast clubs



Just recently a number of local families were invited to Anfield by Red Neighbours to free half-term breakfast clubs in February – and there to welcome them, serve the food and pose for photos were first-teamers Ragnar Klavan and Danny Ward.

Around 300 guests from local primary schools and community groups were welcomed to the stadium throughout the week. Also on hand were Reds legend Robbie Fowler and club mascot Mighty Red, and all the guests went on the new stadium tour too, with LFC's official family partner Joie providing a range of gifts for all those



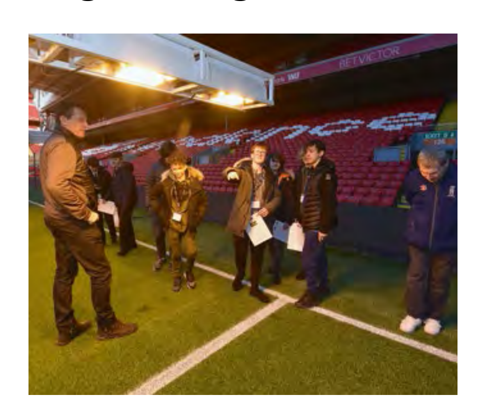


attending, plus Joie products and LFC store gift-vouchers for the daily raffles.

Red Neighbours is the name of the LFC initiative that works with local residents, community groups and schools in and around the Anfield area, focusing on supporting key issues. For more information follow **@Red_Neighbours** on Twitter.

GROUND FORCE

Imagine looking after the Anfield playing surface...these local youngsters found out how



There are regular updates in the Liverpool FC matchday programme about how the club's Red Neighbours programme supports the city's local foodbank initiative. But it also works with local residents, community groups and schools in and around the Anfield area on other key issues like helping the elderly, getting the community physically-active and creating memorable experiences for young people.

As part of the latter initiative Liverpool FC groundstaff recently gave schoolchildren a unique insight into the art of creating a world-class pitch during a Schools into Stadia event at Anfield.

Pupils from North Liverpool Academy, Alsop High School and Notre Dame Catholic College were invited along with members of the Institute of Groundsmanship's Young Board of Directors. The event covered all aspects of a groundsman's role, including use of equipment, pitch-construction, maintenance and matchday procedure.

Anfield staff and the IOG group, alongside a representative from Myerscough College for Horticulture and Land-based Studies, also provided practical advice on how to pursue

Demonstrating some of the specialist kit

a career in the industry and explained the link between groundsmanship and academic subjects such as biology, maths, geography and technology.

David Roberts, grounds manager at LFC, said: "It's been fantastic to showcase our profession and give students an insight into what it means to be part of a grounds team."

Geoff Webb from the IOG added: "Liverpool FC is an iconic club and the standard of sports-turf at both the stadium and training-grounds is world-class.

"The IOG is helping local students, aged 14 to 15, to better understand the many facets of grounds-management and to encourage young people to consider a rewarding career in groundsmanship.

"Schools into Stadia is aimed at GSCE-level students by taking the principles of sports-turf management and linking it to the school curriculum. It's a great initiative and we thank LFC for hosting this event and helping to showcase careers in groundsmanship."





The captain in one of the special t-shirts







Mo and co in the players' tunnel





LET'S KEEP KICKING IT OUT

LFC help get the message through loud and clear to challenge discrimination at the match

The Reds first team wore special t-shirts in the warm-up before the Premier League fixture against West Ham United at Anfield on Saturday 24 February, which was dedicated to the work of Kick It Out.

Since 1993 football's equality and inclusion organisation has worked throughout the sporting, educational and community sectors to challenge discrimination, celebrate diversity and inclusion, and campaign for positive change.

But despite lots of progress, reporting statistics show that incidents of discrimination continue to increase and Kick It Out cannot tackle the issue alone.

That's why the organisation is asking for the help of supporters to report any discriminatory abuse they see or hear – whether that's related to age, disability, gender-reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation – in and around Anfield now or in the future.

Kick It Out's free reporting app, which can be downloaded on iPhone or Android, allows users to confidentially report such incidents. It also offers users the ability to attach video, photo and audio evidence to complaints to aid investigations into discriminatory abuse and behaviour at matches.

Liverpool Football Club are fully behind Kick It Out's work and in addition to its support in the matchday programme for the West Ham game, the club also promoted the organisation's reporting app on its website, social media, as well as through Kick It Out resources such as t-shirts and LED board advertisements inside Anfield.

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Cover star

How Ben's brilliant cover design won an LFC Official Member competition and a trip to Melwood



Young Reds fan Ben Marsden enjoyed the Liverpool FC experience of a lifetime recently when, as winner of a competition to design the matchday programme cover, he received a framed copy signed by members of the first team and presented to him by striker Danny Ings.

Ben has been an LFC Official Member, first as a Mighty Red and now as a Teen, for five years now. The 14-year-old from Burnley in Wharfedale also has an uncle who is an avid collector of Liverpool FC matchday programmes.

So when Ben saw the exclusive Members competition to design the front cover for January's game against Manchester City, he wasn't short of encouragement to create his own design.

Ben takes up the story: "I've been a Liverpool fan all my life as my dad and uncle are, too. I went to my first match when I was six and have been an Official Member for five years, and I try to get to as many games as I can.

"My Uncle Andy has this huge LFC programme collection, over 4,000 and only around 200 short of having every issue from 1945 onwards. So he suggested that I enter the competition because he wanted me to sign a copy if I won – so he had something unique!"

Ben duly studied lots of programmes, old and new, and decided on a digital concept. "The hardest bit was then to think of something original and a bit different. Originally I thought about James Milner and Raheem Sterling as they went from City to Liverpool and vice-versa. Then I realised that Jürgen Klopp and Pep Guardiola had managed against each other with Borussia Dortmund and Bayern Munich and I decided to put them together. I created different layouts and backgrounds to make it work.

"When I found out I won the competition I was surprised and very, very happy. My dad read out the email and I was so excited at the prospect of thousands of people holding a matchday programme with a cover that I had designed."

Dad interjects: "That's an understatement! Ben went from speechless to laughing to bouncing around the house to simply beaming, all in the space of about 30 seconds!"

Not surprisingly Ben is a big fan of being an LFC Official Member. "One of the best things are all the brilliant opportunities you get to win amazing prizes such as this one. It's been a fantastic experience!"

To join LFC Official Membership, please visit **liverpoolfc.com/membership.**


Danny Ings with Ben and his winning design





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QUIZ ANSWERS: LIVERPOOL p9: There are two Liver Birds on the club's crest – one in the main shield and another in the YNWA 'overthrow' form the Shankly Gates above roundels containing the cross of St Andrew and a thistle, together denoting Bill's Scottish roots; **FOOTBALL p17:** Prior to this season, the last time thew Reds reached the last eight of the Champions League was in season 2008/09; **CLUB p85:** The four key issues for Red Neighbours are: helping the elderly, getting the community physically-active, creating memorable experiences for young people, and food-education and food-poverty.


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